

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2863

To provide that an outbreak of infectious disease or act of terrorism may be a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122 et seq.), and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 10, 2009

Mr. PRYOR introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide that an outbreak of infectious disease or act of terrorism may be a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122 et seq.), and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Response  
5 Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATIONS.**

7 Section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
8 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122) is

1 amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the fol-  
2 lowing:

3           “(2) MAJOR DISASTER.—‘Major disaster’ means  
4           any natural disaster (including pandemics), act of  
5           terrorism, or other manmade disaster, in any part of  
6           the United States, which in the determination of the  
7           President causes damage of sufficient severity and  
8           magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance  
9           under this Act to supplement the efforts and avail-  
10          able resources of States, local governments, and dis-  
11          aster relief organizations in alleviating the damage,  
12          loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.”.

13 **SEC. 3. HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION SHARING.**

14          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
15          date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland  
16          Security shall designate a representative to lead a working  
17          group with national organizations that represent State,  
18          local, and tribal government interests to prepare best prac-  
19          tice recommendations for facilitating the flow of public  
20          health information to State fusion centers and the greater  
21          homeland security community.

22          (b) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the  
23          working group described under subsection (a) is estab-  
24          lished, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit  
25          a report with the recommendations of the working group

1 to the appropriate committees of the Senate and House  
2 of Representatives.

